

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Xu, U.S. Patent No. 6,714,081. Applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites bias circuit having a pair of ΔV_{BE} transistors. The principle is explained at page 2, line 33 through page 3, line 11 of the specification, as well as references cited in an IDS Form 1449 submitted with this Response. The examiner states that Xu teaches a reference cell that includes a pair of transistors (26). However, this pair of transistors forms a current mirror (see column 5, lines 39-42 and column 7, lines 12-13) and thus does not operate on the ΔV_{BE} principle. Xu neither teaches nor suggests any transistor pair based on ΔV_{BE} principal. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Xu, nor are claims 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, which depend from claim 1.

Claims 9 recites a method that involves a pair of ΔV_{BE} transistors. Claim 15 recites a system including a pair of ΔV_{BE} transistors. For at least the reasons given above, independent claims 9 and 15 and associated dependent claims 10, 12-14 and 17-19 are not anticipated by Xu.

Claim 20 recites a bias circuit comprising a feedback loop arranged to drive a pair of ΔV_{BE} transistors. For at least the reasons given above, independent claim 20 and associated dependent claims 23 and 24 are not anticipated by Xu.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 14, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Haefner, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,699,014. The applicant traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites a bias circuit having a pair of ΔV_{BE} transistors. The examiner states that Haefner teaches a reference cell that includes a pair of transistors (720 and 725). However, transistors 720 and 725 of Haefner do not form a ΔV_{BE} transistor pair. In fact, Haefner neither teaches nor suggests any transistor pair based on ΔV_{BE} principal. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Haefner, nor is claim 8, which depends from claim 1.

Similarly, for at least the reasons given above, claims 9, 15 and 20 and associated dependent claim 14 are not anticipated by Haefner.


Conclusion

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Customer No. 20575

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.


Joseph S. Makuch
Reg. No. 39,286

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
(503) 222-3613